

of its females point unmistakably to parasitic habits. The same is probably true of *L. crinitus* described by F. Smith¹ and Mayr² from Cashmir. Only the female of this species is known and this has long yellow hairs like the North American *Formica ciliata* Mayr and *crinita* Wheeler, which are, in all probability, temporary parasites on varieties of *F. schaufussi* or *fusca*.

In North America, the genus *Lasius*, which embraces the subgenus (*Acanthomyops*) not represented in Eurasia, seems to present a corresponding division of its species into those with independent and those with parasitic queens, although the data on which this assertion is based are at present very meager. Here, too, the forms of *L. niger*, namely the varieties *americanus* Emery and *neoniger* Emery, *L. flavus* var. *nearcticus* Wheeler and *brevicornis* Emery establish their colonies independently. This I can affirm from many observations in the field. The same is true of *L. (Acanthomyops) claviger* Roger and probably also of *L. (A.) interjectus* Mayr. But I have never seen any of the females of our *umbratus* forms (*mixtus* var. *aphidicola* Walsh, *subumbratus* Viereck, *minutus* Emery and *speculiventris* Emery) in the act of founding their colonies independently, and it is quite probable that they are temporary parasites on the extremely common *L. americanus*. Equally negative have been my observations on *L. (A.) latipes*, which has the α - and β -females to which I alluded in a preceding paragraph. That this species is a temporary parasite on *L. americanus* is indicated by the fact that near Colebrook, Conn., I found four small mixed colonies.³ *L. (A.) murphyi* Forel and *occidentalis* Wheeler, which are closely related to *latipes* and have females covered with singular fulvous hairs, are also very probably to be regarded as parasitic in the early stages of colony formation.

The genus *Lasius*, which comprises some of the commonest and most characteristic ants of the north temperate zone, has never attracted a large number of students, probably because the

¹"Catalogue of Hymenopterous Insects in the Collection of the British Museum," Pt. VI., Formicidæ, 1858, p. 13.

²"Myrmecologische Studien," *Verh. K. K. Zool. bot. Ges. Wien.*, XII., 1862, p. 700.

³See Wheeler, "Ants: Their Structure, Development and Behavior," 1910, p. 504, *nota*.